

## Department of Energy

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11402-DOE-90

Ms. Mary Lynn Tucker Assistant County Attorney County Attorney's Office 1700 Arapahoe Street

Golden, Colorado 80419

Mr. Stanton LeBreche Jefferson County Open Space 18301 W. 10th Avenue, Suite 100 Golden, Colorado 80401

Ms. Tucker & Mr. LeBreche:

Please find the enclosed Annual Report for the Jefferson County Remedial Action Lands, dated January 1991. The annual report summarizes the current status of the lands and the land management activities planned for 1991.

As you will find apparent in the report, the practice of tilling the land to reduce surface plutonium concentrations is effective, but at the price of creating significant surface damage to certain portions of these lands. It is uncertain at this time, just how much of the reduction in plutonium concentration can be attributed to tilling activities and how much to natural processes. The Rocky Flats Plant (RFP) has recently taken additional soil samples of the disturbed and undisturbed parcels in hope of ascertaining the relative importance of each of these factors.

RFP is conducting an environmental restoration program for all on-site and off-site contamination, of which, the Settlement Agreement lands are a part. This program is, in part, a result of Congress passing the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. RFP is concerned that the Settlement Agreement may be in potential conflict with remediation under CERCLA.

The CERCLA/SARA process directs an intensive remedial investigation to establish site characteristics, sources of contamination, nature and extent of contamination, human health risk assessment, and environmental evaluation. This remedial investigation (RI) of the off-site land surface is currently underway. The direction of the CERCLA/SARA process is to develop corrective remedial action alternatives. Deep plowing as directed by the Settlement Agreement may cause more environmental problems than corrective alternatives discovered during the CERCLA/SARA process.

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After you have had sufficient time to study the enclosed report, a meeting is suggested to discuss future remedial activities and the relationships between the Settlement Agreement and future CERCLA actions.

RFP looks forward to your review of this report, particularly with regard to the proposed remedial activities. Should you have any questions, please contact Robert H. Birk of my staff at 966-5921.

Sincerely,

David P. Simonson, Acting Assistant Manager

for Environmental Management

## Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:

J. Jacobus, Policy Dev. Unit

B. Lavelle, EPA

R. Quillen, CDH G. Fess, DOE/RFO